

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 remain present in this application.

The title, specification, abstract, and claims 1, 4 and 8 have been amended.

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The abstract stands objected to for certain informalities. In view of the foregoing amendments, in which legal phraseology has been removed, it is respectfully submitted that these objections have been addressed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of any objection to the abstract are respectfully requested.

The disclosure stands objected to for an informality. In view of the foregoing amendments, in which the typographical error on page 4 has been corrected, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of any objection to the disclosure are respectfully requested.

The title stands objected to as not being descriptive. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of any objection to the title are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4 and 8 stand objected to for certain informalities. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that these objections have been addressed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of any objection to the claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-9 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese document 09245726 to Yoshioka et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Yoshioka et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Yoshioka et al. in view of Ito et al., U.S. Patent 5,520,855. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding independent claim 1, the front and the rear glass sleeves are fixed to the bottom glass plate. One end of the electrodes of the application is held by the rear glass sleeve, and the other end of the electrode extends through the front glass sleeve. In such a structure, the electrode can elongate freely in the front or rear glass sleeves when the electrodes are heated. In Yoshioka et al., the electrodes 7a, 7b, 8a, 8b are fixed to the notch 9 by frit 10 (see column 1, paragraph [0004]). The frit 10 is a glass gel bonding the electrodes to the bottom glass substrate 2. The electrodes 7a, 7b, 8a, 8b cannot elongate freely when fixed by the frit 10, and, when the electrodes are heated, they are easily bent. The glass sleeves of the present application are therefore neither taught nor suggested by Yoshioka et al.

The secondary reference to Ito et al. fails to overcome the above-noted deficiencies of the Yoshioka et al. reference.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art utilized by the Examiner fails to teach or suggest the flat lamp of independent claim 1 and its dependent claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

Application No. 10/790,788
Amendment dated June 13, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 13, 2006

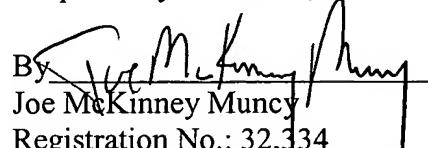
Docket No.: 0941-0929P

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: June 13, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Joe McKinney Muncy
Registration No.: 32,334
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant